

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

# REPORT

---

TO THE

SOUTH CROSLAND

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR YEAR 1895.

---

HUDDERSFIELD:

J. BROADBENT & Co., PRINTERS, &c., NEW STREET.





## REPORT

GENTLEMEN,

The returns of Births and Deaths as given me by the Registrar for your district for the past year are as follows :—

The number of births reported is 60 (36 males and 24 females), equal to a rate of 19·38 per 1000 persons living. This is a slight improvement upon the very low rate of last year, viz : 13·645, but with that exception is below the rates of any of the preceding 20 years. As I pointed out in my report last year the rate has gradually been declining in your district for several years past, and has a material effect in keeping up the death-rate. The average rate for the Administrative County of the West Riding of Yorkshire for 1894 was 29·9 per 1000.

The deaths reported during the year number 51, giving a death-rate of 16·47 per 1000 persons living. As opposed to last year, we this year recover our balance, and have an excess of births over deaths of 9, the average rate for the three previous years was 18·5 per 1000, and the rate last year (1894) for the Administrative County of the West Riding of Yorkshire was 16 per 100. The causes of the rate this year being higher than that of the previous year are mainly owing to a higher respiratory rate and high infantile mortality.

Of the 51 deaths, 10 occurred in children under 1 year, and comparing this with the number of births, we have an infantile mortality of 166 per 1000, as against 190 for the previous year, the West Riding average being 138.

Eighteen of the deaths occurred in adults over 65 years of age, 35 per cent. of the total number.

The deaths from Pulmonary complaints are higher than last year, when this rate was exceedingly low, and are found mainly in the first two quarters of the year. In the first quarter the intense cold and severity of the weather naturally told upon persons of a weakly disposition, and this was increased towards the latter end of the first quarter by the epidemic of Influenza, which left its effects upon people in the second quarter.

Of the 51 deaths :—

10 occurred in infants under 1 year.

3       ,,       children 1 year and under 5 years.

7       ,,       adults 15 years       ,,       25       ,,

13       ,,       ,,       25       ,,       ,,       65       ,,

18       ,,       ,,       65 and upwards.

The commoner infectious diseases this year only give us 3 deaths, a very low average of .974 per 1000. The rate in 1894 was 2.274 per 1000, and for the West Riding 1.4 per 1000; the deaths were due to Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, and Diarrhoea; the case of Enteric Fever occurred at Armitage Bridge in December, and was reported to you then, it was an isolated case, and no subsequent cases have come to my knowledge. No definite cause could be assigned, though complaints were made of slight defects in the drains about the premises, these have since been made satisfactory. Serious complaint was made to me of the intolerable stench at times arising from the goit running at the bottom of the gardens, it is only when the effects of the polluted rivers are brought under our very nose that we can estimate the amount of pollution that does exist in what ought to be pure healthy streams.

The Respiratory death-rate 3.24 per 1000 is higher this year than the very low one of the previous year by 1.3 per 1000, and accounts for 10 deaths from Acute Pulmonary Diseases and 7 to Consumption, a rate of 2.26 per 1000.

Heart Disease caused 5 deaths, Influenza 1; 4 deaths occurred in infants owing to immaturity at birth, and on the other hand 6 are reported as dying from natural senile decay, 5 are due to diseases

of the Abdominal Organs ; 4 to diseases of the Nervous System ; 1 to Cancer ; 1 to Acute Rheumatism, and 3 are cases reported on by the Coroner ; 2 due to drowning, and 1 to Fractured Skull.

As regards general sickness during the year, in March we had an Epidemic of Influenza, which resulted in one death, but passed over our district rather lightly as compared with some neighbouring districts. In December we had an outbreak of Measles, which necessitated the closing of 3 schools, and on which I reported to you specially, it has extended into the year 1896, but at the present time seems to be abating. My experience of this disorder has convinced me that it is not the trivial complaint which many popularly but erroneously suppose, it has been followed by various sequelæ, which it has left in its train, and has had the effect of reducing the strength in many patients similar to the depressing effects left by Influenza ; one Schoolmaster reported to me that he found the children who had been effected by it in his School to be quite daft and spiritless. I must in courtesy say here that I have had the greatest assistance readily afforded to me by the Masters and Mistresses of the various Schools when dealing with outbreaks of an epidemic nature.

In addition to the closing of the Schools, it has also been necessary to require the prohibition from Schools of other children from infected houses, thus entailing some degree of hardship in the finances of the Schools for which it may be necessary for your Council to give a Certificate.

Under the Notification of Diseases Act (1889), 6 cases have been reported to me, 3 of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever, all ending in recovery ; 1 of Puerperal and 1 of Enteric Fever, both fatal. All these cases were visited and the necessary measures taken to prevent the spread of infection.

With regard to Diphtheria the opinion is gaining ground, and I have had an admirable example of it in my own family, that the only way to diagnose Diphtheria from other throat affections is by a biological examination of the throat membrane in a proper pathological laboratory. This is done successfully now, and cases are reported where the Bacillus of Diphtheria was found in unsuspected



throat cases, and on the other hand, cases which seemed undoubtedly to be Diphtheritic were proved to be of an innocent nature. The practice is being adopted in the larger towns of giving facilities to the Medical Officer of Health to determine the nature of doubtful cases, and further, owing to the recent discovery about twelve months ago of a new serum remedy for Diphtheria and the very gratifying results which have followed its use, it may be necessary in the near future for you to make provision for the supply of Antitoxin to practitioners who require it, or to prevent the spread of epidemics of Diphtheria, such as we experienced with such fatal results only three years ago.

I have kept myself in touch with your district, visiting it regularly several times a week and making special visits when required by your Inspector to assist him in the sanitary supervision. As a result of our inspections he has reported to you from time to time various nuisances which have mostly been abated. Some few remain, such as the dilapidated houses which I condemned as unfit for habitation, and the uncovered ashpit at South Crosland. The private streets are in their former state of unrepair, and the drainage of Crosland village is in *statu quo*, as for many years past.

The Inspector's Report is appended, and will give you some idea of the amount of work done in the removal of nuisances.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. SMAILES, M.D., L.S.Sc.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Honley,

January 27th, 1896.

## BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATE, 1895.

		Births.	Average per 1000.	Deaths.	Average per 1000.
1st Quarter	..	18	23·39	14	18·19
2nd	„	19	24·675	12	15·59
3rd	„	13	16·89	12	15·59
4th	„	10	12·995	13	16·88
		60	19·38	51	16·47

ANNUAL RATES PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION  
 COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING RATES OF THE  
 PREVIOUS YEAR FOR THE WEST RIDING OF  
 YORKSHIRE.

		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Respira- tory Death Rate,	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.
S. Crosland	1894..	13·6	15·5	1·9	2·9	1·3	190
	1895..	19·38	16·47	0·974	2·26	3·24	166
West Riding, 1894..		29·9	16·0	1·4	1·3	3·2	138

# NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## TO THE

# South Crosland Urban District Council,

## FOR THE YEAR 1895.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

There have been 20 cases of nuisance, and 2 remained over from 1894, making a total of 22. Twenty cases have been remedied and 2 still remain on hand, one of which is in the contractor's hands. Four sinkpipes have been trapped and disconnected, and 4 ventilation shafts have been erected on private property, 3 new houses have been built and 1 pulled down, 3 new privies have been built and 1 pulled down, and 4 new ashpits have been built and 1 pulled down.

The Sewage Filtration Works have been kept constantly working, and an immense quantity of sediment has been taken from them, the cost of which has been £25 5s. 4d.

In the Scavenging Department there have been 537 loads of nightsoil carted away, 3645 tubs have been emptied, 75 loads of rubbish have been removed, and 5364 privies and 1085 ashpits have been cleaned out and disinfected, the cost of which has been for manual labour, £38 12s. 6d.

	No. of loads of Nightsoil.	No. of loads of Rubbish.	No. of Tubs emptied.	No. of Privies emptied.	No. of Ashpits emptied.	Cost for Manual Labour.
						£ s. d.
1894..	733	91	3525	5393	1295	35 12 2
1895..	537	75	3645	5364	1085	38 12 6

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. MELLOR,